## Remarks

The claims have been amended to clearly distinguish Fortin et al. by providing that only the right support leg and left support leg of the metatarsal guard are in contact with the sole.

Therefore, even <u>assuming arguendo</u> that the front elements of Fortin et al. are a "brace" or forward support (which they are not), since the front elements contact the sole, the amended claims distinguish Fortin et al.

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Respectfully submitted,

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